

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 170379

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD,JA

SUBJECT: SONY CORP. LETTER TO SEC. RICHARDSON RE TV
INVESTIGATION BY ITC

REF: TOKYO 8180

PER REF TEL, THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SEC. RICHARDSON'S
RESPONSE TO MR. AKIO MORITA OF SONY.

BEGIN TEXT

MR. AKIO MORITA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SONY CORPORATION
7-35 KITASHINAGAWA-6
SHINAGAWA-KU
TOKYO 141, JAPAN

DEAR MR. MORITA:
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---THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE DOCUMENTATION WHICH YOUR COMPANY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO PRODUCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES BY

JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS OF COLOR TELEVISION TUBES.

---THE TRADE LAWS UNDER WHICH THE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED ARE DESIGNED TO INSURE THAT U.S. INDUSTRY IS NOT UNFAIRLY DISADVANTAGED IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET BY IMPORTS. HOWEVER, THESE LAWS CONTAIN CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS FOR IMPORTERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WHICH ASSURE THAT A THOROUGH EXAMINATION IS MADE OF ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION BY THE INVESTIGATING AGENCY AND THAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IS PROVIDED.

---I APPRECIATE THAT THE PAPER WORK INVOLVED IN RESPONDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION'S REQUEST IS TIME CONSUMING. HOWEVER, WE HAVE CONTACTED THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION AND THEY HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR CONTINUING NEED FOR THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE REQUESTED IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THE BEST ASSURANCE YOUR COMPANY CAN HAVE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE FAIR AND ACCURATELY REFLECT THE FACTS IS FOR SONY TO COOPERATE FULLY IN THE INVESTIGATION AND TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS.

---YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT DOMESTIC FIRMS ALLEGING UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES HAVE OFTEN MADE COMPLAINTS ABOUT REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION SIMILAR TO YOURS, WONDERING WHY SUCH PROCEDURES ARE NECESSARY WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES SEEM ABLE TO ACT MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO PROTECT DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES AGAINST SUCH PRACTICES.

---I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO FREER INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THAT U.S. TRADE LAWS ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THAT COMMITMENT. IF I CAN BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. END TEXT.
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SINCERELY, ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON KISSINGER

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